

**BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LOCAL COUNCILS**



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NALC represents 85% of all 9,000 local councils in England



Responded to 500 legal enquiries in 2014



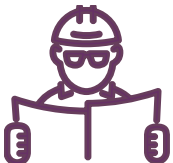
Helped create over 260 new councils since 1997



NALC has secured £4.7m to help parishes connect better with communities



Stopped precept capping



Over 1,000 councils working on a Neighbourhood Plan

WELCOME

Created in 1947, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is the only national body representing the interests of County Associations of Local Councils (CALCs) and local (parish and town) councils or meetings; articulating your views to the government, the media and other national organisations.

Our strength is our size, which is why your membership through your CALC is important to us. We campaign and lobby for changes to legislation identified by you and which help you to better serve your communities. We are completely democratically run with each county area in England providing one councillor to sit on our National Council, which decides our annual business plan.

By joining your CALC, your council also becomes a member of NALC. We work in close partnership with every one of the 41 CALCs in the country, providing complementary national and local services to best represent and serve you.

Some tangible benefits of membership are set out here. But membership of this unique network provides other benefits too – like networking with like-minded individuals and learning from others about how they solve local problems. And above all, being part of a historic grassroots movement to change the way England is governed locally for the better.

Working together, councils, CALCs, and NALC can ensure local councils are the voice of local communities listened to by local and national decision makers; with a reputation for good governance and getting things done for their communities. I would invite you to become part of that proud endeavour.

Jonathan Owen, chief executive, NALC



“WE’D HAVE STRUGGLED TO GET OUR CAMPAIGN STARTED WITHOUT NALC. ITS EXPERT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE HELPED KEEP MORALE IN THE CAMPAIGN HIGH AND IDEAS FOCUSED”

CLLR ANGELA SINGHATE, QUEENS’ PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL, LONDON


WHY JOIN US

By joining your CALC and NALC, you and your council become part of a strong nationwide network, representing 85% of all local councils in England.

We represent our members' interests on a national level, provide legal advice and practical guidance in partnership with CALCs, and campaign to vocalise and progress our members' interests.

This joint local and national offer means that we can tailor our services to your needs. Your CALC is your first point of contact for day-to-day enquiries, but they will refer you to NALC or contact us on your behalf where necessary.

We help you to best represent and deliver for the communities you serve through a package of support, with a wide range of benefits.



“A CALC’S VALUE COMES FROM PROVIDING DAY-TO-DAY ADVICE AND MOBILISING WHEN REGIONAL ISSUES PRESENT THEMSELVES. NALC’S ABILITY TO INFLUENCE POLICY AND TAKE A STRATEGIC LEAD MAKES IT A VITAL COMPONENT IN REALISING AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT”

JENNIE THOMAS, CLERK, STONE PARISH COUNCIL, KENT

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

On top of the services, advice and support offered by your CALC, NALC will provide:

1. Councils have access to, and influence over, a national family of county associations and a national body working together to help them provide services to their communities, understand the legal framework in which they work, and have a strong national voice in the media and Government.
2. To lobby for policy changes to make councils' work easier. Recent successes include:
 - securing £4.7m for CALCs to help smaller councils buy IT to comply with new transparency arrangements (£100,000 worth of applications have already been received);
 - resisting "capping" of precept increases;
 - increasing the number of people required to trigger a parish poll so reducing the number of vexatious polls;
 - persuading the Treasury and Downing Street to consider giving the sector a share of business rates and exempting public conveniences;
 - successful representations to Government to ensure £31m of council tax funding was passed on to local councils in 2014/15;
 - a key target for next year is to ensure councils benefit from devolution with adequate funding and advice on how to take on and run devolved services with practical guidance and support.
3. To get up-to-date advice and guidance through member only websites, publications, toolkits and conferences on an extensive range of subjects including securing external funding; neighbourhood planning; affordable housing; procurement; and using social media. Our website had 325,000 page views last year.
4. To improve your council and yourself through nationally agreed CiLCA training for clerks; participating in the local council award scheme, benefitting from the national training strategy and attending personal training events. 27 events were "free" to members.
5. To access advice on financial and audit matters through collective procurement of audit services, using the practitioners guide to audit, and model financial standing orders.
6. To access up-to-date information on the legal, and financial framework in which councils work including model standing orders and around 100 legal topic notes and briefings.
7. To access written and telephone advice from a dedicated resource of three highly experienced solicitors and an external expert on finance and audit. Our team dealt with around 625 queries last year.
8. To get communications advice and guidance including media relations, marketing and help with "crisis" communications.
9. To access and receive support for securing government grants including "Our Place", new councils programme (£1m) and neighbourhood planning (£30m).
10. To get advice and guidance on your role as employers on everything from contracts, disciplinaries and performance management, to recruitment and pay.
11. Membership of the Direct Access Scheme. A Direct Access Council is a larger member council, with either an electorate of 6,000 and over or an annual budgeted income or spend of £250,000 and over. The council is designated onto the Direct Access Scheme in consultation with its CALC and given faster advice and guidance from NALC.



“THE LOBBYING CARRIED OUT BY NALC ON BEHALF OF ALL TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS ENSURES THAT THE SECTOR AS A WHOLE IS SEEN AND HEARD NATIONALLY”

ALISON MELNYCZUK, TOWN CLERK, ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL, CORNWALL

WHAT WE DO

Campaigning

We raise the profile of the issues that are important to you and communicate your views to government and a range of stakeholders, in the private and public sector.

Legal, accounts and audit advice

Members may obtain written legal advice from NALC's solicitors. Our highly trained team provides comprehensive written legal guidance on the areas of law that relate to you. There are currently 86 legal guidance notes. The team also produces legal briefings to inform you about topical or new legal issues.

Publications

Our new website is a hub of information with member-only access areas and documents. We also have a quarterly magazine, LCR (Local Council Review), fortnightly Direct Information Service (DIS) and weekly e-newsletter to keep members up-to-date with all local government news and developments.

Conferences, events and training

Nothing compares to a good event, the atmosphere of being together with people who share the same passion as you, the lessons you learn and advice you take in, and the opportunity to connect with new and old colleagues.

NALC's national events and training sessions are opportunities to bring our diverse membership together to learn about new or topical initiatives, and share ideas. They are designed to leave you feeling re-energised — full of zeal for your job and bursting with fresh ideas. Events in the years to come will be topical, relevant and specific and allow plenty of time for sharing ideas and networking.



“AS A TOWN CLERK RUNNING ONE OF THE LARGEST TOWN COUNCILS IN THE COUNTRY, NALC HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN ENSURING BOTH MYSELF, MY STAFF AND OUR COUNCILLORS REMAIN UP-TO-DATE ON CURRENT INITIATIVES, REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION”

HELEN BALL, TOWN CLERK, SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL, SHROPSHIRE

Publicity

We provide a platform to highlight your causes and to showcase your good work on a national level.

Standards, awards and recognition

Opportunities year-round for your staff and council to improve and develop to meet your own objectives and to best serve your local community. You will have access to publications and tools such as the Good Councillors Guide and Good Employers Guide.

NALC also works with other stakeholders including the Government, the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Local Government Association to deliver the National Training Strategy. This includes a full range of face-to-face and online training as well as qualifications designed specifically for those in local councils.

And after all the hard work of improving your council and delivering valued services to your community you can take up the chance to celebrate and be recognised for achievements via the Local Council Award Scheme, Council of the Week and Star Council Awards.



“ONLY NALC AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS CAN PROPERLY SUPPORT LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN ACTION. NATIONALLY ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER POLICY MAKERS UNDERSTAND THE WORTH (AND NEEDS) OF LOCAL COUNCILS AND THROUGH OUR COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS WITH PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND PROCEDURAL ADVICE”

JACKIE WEAVER, CHIEF OFFICER OF THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of NALC offers excellent value for money.

You cannot be a member of NALC without being a member of your CALC.

To become a member or to renew your membership, you simply need to:

- 1.** Join your CALC. CALC contact details can be accessed via the NALC website or by calling NALC on **020 7637 1865**.
- 2.** NALC will charge you 5.6p* per elector in a parish area for your NALC membership (*From 1 April 2016 this figure will change to 6.6p per elector).
- 3.** NALC membership fees will be capped at £1,750 per council per financial year.
- 4.** This cost will be added to your annual CALC membership fee.

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